

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
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(94-2284)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1.	Party to Agreement notifying: <u>NETHERLANDS</u>
2.	Agency responsible: Ministry of Transport and Public Works
3.	Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Septic tanks or other facilities which minimise the pollution of surface water in an equivalent manner
5.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: WVO Draft Discharges Order on Household Waste Water (22 pages)
6.	Description of content: The Order comprises rules for discharging household waste water on surface water from buildings, using equipment or any other method. The aim of these rules is to prevent the pollution of surface water by this category of discharges. Depending on the distance to the nearest sewerage, discharges shall be prohibited or, in the case of a greater distance, waste water shall be directed through a facility. Such facility aims to minimise the pollution of surface water. The above-mentioned requirement is most definitely met if household waste water passes through a septic tank. In addition, other provisions may be prescribed which will minimise the pollution of surface water in an equivalent manner either by the Minister of Transport and Public Works, by Ministerial Order, or the Water Quality Manager, by a further requirement.
7.	Objective and rationale: In the Netherlands, approximately 97 per cent of all buildings are connected to sewerage. Approximately 175,000 non-linked buildings are mainly located in remote areas. Roughly 70 per cent of this number discharge onto surface water and 30 per cent into the soil. The Discharges Order on Soil Protection regulates discharges into the soil. This order has been adhered to as much as possible. The description of the septic tank is in line with the implementing regulation - Discharges Order Governing Soil Protection (14 June 1990, Official Journal L23). Point of departure are the provisions set forth in the Directive for the individual treatment of waste water for remote buildings (IBA).
8.	Relevant documents: Surface Waters Pollution Act (Law Gazette 1991, 628, most recently amended by the Act of 27 April 1994, Law Gazette 327)
9.	Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: 1 February 1995
10.	Final date for comments: 31 December 1994
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address and telefax number of other body: